

REMARKS

This RCE is responsive to the final Office Action dated October 22, 2004 in which the Examiner rejects all the pending claims 1-39 except claims 12-13, 25-26 and 38-39. Claims 12-13, 25-26 and 38-39 are admitted to have allowable subject matter.

In this reply, Applicants have further amended the claims as shown in the above "Amendments to the claims" portion. Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments have rendered all the claims in the present application in good condition for allowance.

In particular, following the suggestions of the Examiner, all the features in claim 12 (which has allowable subject matter) as well as in its base claim 11 are now incorporated into independent claim 1. Claims 11 and 12 are cancelled. Claim 13 is amended to be directly dependent on amended independent claim 1. Applicants believe that amended independent claim 1, as well as its dependent claims 2-10 and 13, are now allowable.

Newly-added independent claim 40 incorporates all the features in claim 13 (which has allowable subject matter) as well as in its base claims 11 and 1, and is therefore believed allowable. Newly added dependent claims 41- 49 repeat dependent claims 2-10 but are dependent to independent claim 40, and are believed also patentable because of their dependency to claim 40.

Similarly, independent claim 14 is amended to incorporated all the features in claim 25 (which has allowable subject matter) and its base claim 24, and newly-added independent claim 50 recites all the features in claim 26 (which has allowable subject matter) as well as in its base claims 24 and 14. Claims 24 and 25 are cancelled. Claim 26 is amended to be directly dependent to independent claim 14. Newly added dependent claims 51- 59 repeat dependent claims 15-23, but are dependent on newly added independent claim 50. All these claims 14-23, 26 and 50-59 are believed

allowable for the similar reasons as to claims 1-10, 13 and 40-49 as explained above.

Similarly, independent claim 27 is amended to incorporate all the features in claim 38 (which has allowable subject matter) and in its base claim 37. Therefore, amended claim 27 is believed allowable now. Claims 37 and 38 are cancelled. Claim 39 is amended to be directly dependent to independent claim 27. Dependent claims 28-36 and 39 are believed also allowable because of their dependency relationship to independent claim 27.

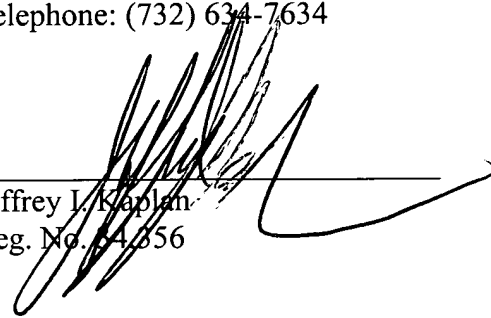
Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are now in good condition for allowance, and therefore respectfully request allowance of the application. A request for a two-month extension is enclosed with a payment of the extension fee. The Commissioner is authorized to deduct fees believed due from our Deposit Account No. 11-0223.

Respectfully submitted,

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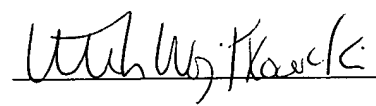
March 18, 2005

By:


Jeffrey I. Kaplan
Reg. No. 64,356

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal service as first class mail, in a postage prepaid envelope, addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 18, 2005.

Dated March 18, 2005 Signed  Print Name Ute H. Wojtkowski